

Bats of Conservation Focus on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests: Life History



GRAY BAT



- Live in caves year-round, often roosting in large clusters
- Ranges across parts of 12 states, but 95% of population hibernates in just nine caves
- Listed as endangered in 1976; primary threats are related to disturbance and alteration of caves
- Forages along river and stream corridors

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT



- In Arkansas, hibernate in the winter alone or in small groups in caves or mines
- In summer, they roost in pines or hardwoods under loose bark or in cavities
- Listed as threatened in 2015; primary threat is white-nose syndrome
- Populations on the Forest have declined dramatically; they have gone from one of our most abundant bats to very rare
- Forage under the forest canopy along streams or roads consuming insects

REGIONAL FORESTER'S SENSITIVE SPECIES - BATS

Rafinesque's big-eared bat
Southeastern bat
Small-footed bat
Tri-colored bat



OZARK BIG-EARED BAT



- One of the rarest bats in North America
- Listed as endangered in 1979
- Primary risks include disturbance by humans entering caves and conversion of forested habitats
- Relatively large bat, specializes in moths and uses its acute hearing to help detect prey
- Live in caves all year, coming out only for feeding
- Associated with hardwood forests; forages along forested corridors such as small streams or roads on mountain slopes

INDIANA BAT

- Hibernate in caves and abandoned mines in the winter, only in areas with cool and relatively stable temperatures
- Roost in trees during their active season, most frequently under loose bark of pine, shagbark hickory, or other hardwood species
- There are a few specific caves in Arkansas that have the temperature conditions they require
- Listed as endangered in 1967; primary threats include disturbance of bats in caves during hibernation and white-nose syndrome
- Females migrate up to 350 miles to maternity colonies with up to 100 other adult female bats where the young are born and nursed until they are ready to fly and forage on their own

